



State of Utah

Department of Agriculture and Food

Avian Influenza Prevention

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Mission Statement

*Protect and
Promote
Utah Agriculture
and food.*

Key Issues & Programs

- Animal Health
- Food Safety/
Inspection
- Grazing Improvement
- Homeland Security
- Marketing &
Development
- Utah's Own
- Weights & Measures
- West Nile Virus
Prevention

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What the UDAF is doing to prevent the introduction of AI in Utah poultry

- The Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) works closely with the poultry industry and the Division of Wildlife Resources to prevent the introduction of AI.
 - State and private practice veterinarians routinely inspect commercial poultry farms for signs of bird flu (diarrhea, nasal discharge, decreased egg production, lack of energy and appetite, etc.).
 - State and federal meat inspectors are on-sight at packing plants, looking for signs of infected birds.
 - Utah has two Animal Diagnostic Laboratories (Logan, Nephi) that are specially equipped to test dead or dying birds that might have Avian Influenza.
 - The UDAF has recently completed an Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan that is a comprehensive document that spells out what we should do to prevent AI from entering the state. The plan also spells out what we would do if we get Avian Influenza in Utah.
<http://ag.utah.gov/pressrel/AISurveillancePlan.pdf>
- It requires:
- ◇ Mandatory testing of select birds in commercial bird flocks.
 - ◇ Any birds brought into the state, either for commercial or domestic purposes, must have a health certificate issued by a vet. from the previous location.
 - ◇ Employees of commercial growers may not own pet birds, or handle birds from other areas.



(right) UDAF veterinarian, Dr. Bruce King holds a turkey while Moroni Feed Veterinarian, Dr. Terry Olsen prepares to take a blood sample. Utah's commercial poultry population, that numbers more than nine million birds, is closely monitored to prevent the introduction of Avian Influenza.

Avian Influenza (AI) is a disease of increasing worldwide importance with growing implications as a human disease threat. And the potential for low pathogenic varieties of AI to mutate to highly pathogenic strains, affecting domestic poultry, is significant.

In response to the increasing threat posed by Avian Influenza, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has drafted a comprehensive Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan.



(right) Utah chicken and turkey producers restrict access to their property and enforce advanced bio-security measures to prevent the spread of disease. Lab technicians at Moroni Feed Inc. routinely check the health of their flocks using blood tests that can detect the first signs of disease.

